

**FROM THE STATE OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION
P. O. BOX 809
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102**

NEWS RELEASE

**April 25, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact W. T. Edmonson
OA/Office of Equal Opportunity
573-751-8130**

Governor's Torch of Excellence Awards to Several Businesses and Government Leaders

Jefferson City-Governor Bob Holden will address the "Governor's Torch of Excellence" awards event, applauding the efforts of several firms and state departments for their leadership and exemplary efforts in diversity through employment or procurement. Governor Holden will present the following awards at the Governor's Mansion on April 28:

Governor's Torch of Excellence Business Awards:

Businesses are recognized in this category for exemplifying superior efforts in diversity by providing outstanding service to state government; developing innovative methods for partnerships between minority business enterprises and other businesses in Missouri.

- Business Enterprise Award-**Community Careplus, St. Louis**
- Minority Business Enterprise Award-**Segura Studio, Kansas City**
- Women-Owned Business Enterprise Award-**Huber & Associates, Inc., Jefferson City**

Governor's Leadership Award

An administrative level individual who is recognized for demonstrating support, beyond mere requirements, for diversity issues in procurement and/or employment. The administrator has encouraged training, development, and outreach efforts, and actively supports committees or boards which promote diversity in purchasing and employment.

**WINNERS: Steve Mahfood, Director, Division of Natural Resources
Kelvin Simmons, Chair, Missouri Public Service Commission**

"Malinda Benson" Procurement Advocate Award

The Gold Procurement Award has been named in honor of the late Malinda Benson. Malinda was a driving force for minority procurement in Missouri state government for many years. This award is dedicated to her legacy.

WINNER: Gary Heimericks, Department of Natural Resources

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Employment Advocate Award

A public individual, or segment of a state department is recognized for outstanding efforts in promoting diversity in the area of procurement or employment. Activities include internal monitoring of diversity objectives, goal achievement, outreach and training efforts, and/or promoting objectives of equal opportunity.

WINNER: Brenda Treadwell-Martin, MoDOT

Governor's Torch of Excellence *Employment* Awards (Gold, Silver, Bronze):

Agencies are recognized for progress in reaching their diversity goals for employment, enhancing diversity training, and establishing superior recruitment programs.

GOLD:	Department of Higher Education
SILVER:	Department of Health and Senior Services
BRONZE:	Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

Governor's Torch of Excellence *Procurement* Awards (Gold, Silver, Bronze):

State agencies are recognized for their progress in diversifying contracting opportunities in Missouri state government. Agencies have completed superior internal procurement procedures and maintained an exceptional training program for employees.

GOLD:	Department of Insurance
SILVER:	Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
BRONZE:	Department of Economic Development

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MEDIA NOTES:

-Event will be at the Governor's Mansion, Monday, April 28, 3:00-5:00 PM.

-For security reasons, we are asked to provide names of all persons attending. To comply, please give your name to Debbie Watkins (573-526-0982) as soon as possible. Thank you!